# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1267
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2016
Availibility of Water in Toilets
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**Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether shortage/non-availability of water in toilets is one of the reasons for open defecation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has taken steps to ensure that the toilets are maintained after being constructed; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) and (b) The main reason for open defecation is behaviour and mind set of the people who have continued the practice for centuries. However, to ensure adequate availability of water for toilets, under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) {SBM-G}, the incentive for individual toilet has been increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000, to provide for water availability, including for storing water for hand-washing and cleaning. The SBM(G) guidelines also provide for prioritization of conjoint programmes of sanitation and water to maximize the availability of water for sanitation purposes.

(c) and (d) Under, Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) {SBM-G), the emphasis is on behaviour change of communities to adopt safe sanitation and stop open defecation. Once this behaviour change is triggered, the household is to construct his own toilet and maintain it. In case of public toilets, the States are advised to take them up, once the local community/ Gram Panchayat puts in place a mechanism to maintain it.